End Punctuation in Sentences

1. Focus

Explain End Punctuation

Say: All sentences begin with capital letters and end with punctuation marks like periods, exclamation marks, and question marks. To know which end punctuation mark to use, you have to understand the different types of sentences. Some sentences are statements. Others ask a question, and others are said with excitement. Each type of sentence uses a different end mark. Today we will learn about different types of sentences and what type of punctuation mark to use for each type.

Model Using Correct End Punctuation

Display the modeling text on chart paper or using the interactive whiteboard resources without end marks. Read aloud the sentences as if in paragraph form without changing voice inflection.

Mom said we had to give away my puppy.
I can't believe it!
That's not fair!
Was it all for nothing?

Modeling Text

Say: The first sentence looks like a statement. I think it just needs a period at the end. (Place a period at the end of the sentence.) The second sentence, though, seems different. When I say, “I can’t believe it,” I’m usually upset or excited. I also speak loudly. I think I’ll put an exclamation mark at the end of this sentence. (Place an exclamation mark at the end of the sentence.) The third sentence is interesting. I could say it plainly or I could be upset and say it loudly. I think I’ll add a little excitement and say it loudly. That means I need another exclamation mark. (Place an exclamation mark at the end of the sentence.) The fourth sentence is not a statement. It seems like this sentence needs an answer. Anytime I’m looking for an answer, I ask a question. Oh. I remember. I need a question mark at the end of this sentence. I also remember that my voice goes up at the end of questions. (Place a question mark at the end of the sentence.)

Say: Now I’ll read the sentences again. Read the sentences aloud, raising your voice for exclamatory sentences and at the end of the question.
2 Rehearse

Practice Using End Punctuation

Display the practice text on chart paper or using the interactive whiteboard resources.

Ask students to form pairs. Invite pairs to read the sentences in each set without any change in voice. Then ask students to add punctuation marks to the end of each sentence.

1. Oh no!
   It’s raining again!
   Will we never get to go outside and play?
2. We won the game!
   Can you believe it?
   Surely it’s a dream!
3. May I borrow the scissors, please?
   Of course you may.
   Don’t cut yourself!

Share and Discuss Sentence Punctuation

Have students reread the sentences using appropriate voice inflection. Discuss pairs’ responses. Ask the following questions:

• What end punctuation marks did you use for each sentence?
• How did you decide which end punctuation mark to use?
• Which sentences could have had a period or an exclamation mark?

If your class includes English learners or other students who need support, use “Strategies to Support ELs.”

3. Independent Writing and Conferring

Say: Remember to use punctuation marks at the end of your sentences. Read your sentences out loud to make sure you’ve used the correct mark. Don’t forget that some sentences could be said plainly with a period or with excitement. Those sentences need an exclamation point.

You may wish to have students complete BLM 11. Encourage students to pay attention to end punctuation when they edit during independent writing time.

4. Share

Review and provide corrective feedback based on students’ answers to BLM 11. Ask students to share what they learned about end punctuation.

Strategies to Support ELs

Beginning

Help beginning ELs understand end marks. Concentrate on simple sentences that they will need to use in oral language. Say the following sentences one at a time and have students role-play them. Then write them on the board or chart paper with the correct punctuation mark.

Sample Sentences
This is my paper.
May I use a pencil?
Don’t spill the glue!

Intermediate and Advanced

Provide simple sentences to help ELs use punctuation marks. For example:

Please close the door
That was very exciting
What time is it